

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application, and indicating that claims 1-12 are allowable.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 6.

Objection(s)

The drawings are objected to because Figs. 11(b)-11(d) contained minor informalities. Applicant has amended Figs. 11(b)-11(d) as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 was objected to because of a minor error. Applicant has amended claim 6 to simply correct the minor error. Thus, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below.

No Petition for Extension of Time or fee is believed due for this response because the Examiner has granted Applicant's Request to Reset Period for Reply. The new period for reply has been restarted from May 12, 2005. However, if this belief is incorrect and a petition and/or fee is deemed necessary, please consider this paper as such and charge such fee to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 15115.013001).

Dated:

6/7/05

Respectfully submitted,

By Jonathan P. Osha 45,925
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA • LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
Telephone: 713.228.8600
Attorney for Applicant

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figs. 11(b)-11(d) as shown in the enclosed replacement sheets. As suggested by the Examiner, Fig. 11(b) has been amended such that the second and the third ranking candidates are shown as “,” (comma) and “'” (apostrophe). Further, Figs. 11(c) and 11(d) have been amended such that the second candidates are shown as “I.” These amendments are fully supported by, for example, paragraph 0033 of the original specification. No new matter has been added. Applicant submits that these replacement figures are formal. Also, a separate letter to the Official Draftsperson is enclosed.